

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 01145 151509Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PPT-01 CA-01 HA-05 L-03 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4736

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 1145

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC (ARSENIAN, TAKVOR), CPAS, BU, RO
SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO US CITIZEN

REF: BUCHAREST 4125

1. EMBASSY IS AWARE OF A NUMBER OF US CITIZENS WHOSE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF MR. ARSENIAN WHO HAVE TRAVELLED TO BULGARIA AS TOURISTS WITHOUT INCIDENT. EMBASSY IS AWARE OF ONLY ONE RECENT CASE IN WHICH A NATURALIZED U.S. CITIZEN ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTY UPON ENTRY (BY TRAIN FROM YUGOSLAVIA) THOUGH HE WAS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE HIS TRIP WITHOUT FURTHER INTERFERENCE FROM GOB

AUTHORITIES. A U.S. CITIZEN WHO DESIRES TO VISIT BULGARIA MUST OBTAIN A VALID BULGARIAN ENTRY VISA IN HIS U.S. PASSPORT FROM A BULGARIAN EMBASSY OR CONSULATE ABROAD PRIOR TO ARRIVAL IN BULGARIA. EMBASSY EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THAT THE ISSUANCE OF A BULGARIAN ENTRY VISA IN A U.S. PASSPORT IN SUCH A CASE REPRESENTS TACIT GOB ACCEPTANCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S U.S. CITIZENSHIP. NONETHELESS, EMBASSY CANNOT STATE THAT, IN ALL CASES, BULGARIAN-BORN, U.S. NATURALIZED CITIZENS SUCH AS MR. ARSENIAN 60 LEFT
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PAGE 02 SOFIA 01145 151509Z

COUNTRY ILLEGALLY WILL ENCOUNTER NO DIFFICULTY DURING - VISIT TO BULGARIA.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT INADVISABLE TO CONSULT WITH MFA ON THIS QUESTION. CONSULTATION WITH MIA NOT POSSIBLE. TO RAISE CASE OF MR. ARSENIAN WITH MFA WOULD CERTAINLY BRING PRO FORMA RESPONSE THAT ARSENIAN IS STILL A BULGARIAN

CITIZEN AND, THEREFORE, MUST ENTER BULGARIA ON A BULGARIAN
PASSPORT. ARSENIAN WILL HAVE TO MAKE OWN DECISION WHETHER
TO ATTEMPT TRAVEL TO BULGARIA BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED
PARA 1 ABOVE, PLUS HIS ASSESSMENT OF HIS OWN BACKGROUND
AND SITUATION IN BULGARIA PRIOR TO 1968, AND CIRCUMSTANCES
SURROUNDING HIS ILLEGAL DEPARTURE.
MAGEE

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Message Attributes

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